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Lebanon ME1
Syria ME1

of clinics and in the cities a shortage of qualified staff to undertake massage, radiotherapy, and orthopædics, and there is special need to combat tuberculosis. Syrians and Lebanese are not addicted to hashish which, however, is grown in the Biqaa and smuggled to Egypt. The Lebanese Government periodically burns many of the plantations, which inflates the price of the surviving crop.

Economic Survey

More than half the population of the two countries is engaged in agriculture which is the most important economic activity. Natural resources hardly exist; there is bitumen in Jebel Bishri in Syria but its production would not be economic; about 10,000 tons a year of asphalt is produced from the neighbourhood of Latakia; and salt is extracted in commercial quantities near Aleppo.

Petroleum

For a number of years, associates of IPC searched for oil in Syria and Lebanon but without finding it in commercial quantities; in consequence, the areas held by these IPC associates have been given up. However, the two Governments are still anxious for further efforts to be made to find oil in commercial quantities. The importance of petroleum in the economy of Syria and Lebanon lies in the situation of the two republics athwart the pipelines from the fields of northern Iraq and Saudi Arabia which have outlets on the Mediterranean.[1] From Iraq a 12-inch and 16-inch line carry oil across Syria by way of Palmyra and Homs to Tripoli in the Lebanon. Together, these two lines can carry about 8 million tons of oil a year (160,000 barrels daily). A third IPC line from Kirkuk to Homs then bears north of the other two and reaches the sea at Banias, and so does not run through Lebanon at all. This new line is 26–30–32-inches in diameter and can deliver oil at about 16 million tons a year (320,000 barrels daily). From the fields of Saudi Arabia a 30–31 inch American pipeline (Tapline) travels over 1,000 miles on its way to Sidon in Lebanon, passing through Jordan and Syria. At present the line is pumping at a rate of about 15 million tons a year (300,000 barrels daily). It should be noted that these four lines all carry crude oil, some of which is refined on the Mediterranean shore for local requirements but the bulk is shipped as crude to the refineries of Europe and elsewhere.

The line from Kirkuk to Haifa is not operating and the Haifa

[1] See Appendix IV, p. 570 below.

[illegible] Adam et al [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. The total area of [illegible] is about 1,500 square miles, the population being estimated in 1960 at [illegible] persons, of whom a high proportion live in the principal towns. The main ports have long maintained regular services to foreign countries, and it is said that [illegible] have served as [illegible] to the coast to their native land.

2. Labours to embody a fruit-growing agricultural economy, but [illegible] from Middle East and Florida are being sold during the country to research with early experimental [illegible] and [illegible] on the main. In the course this [illegible] may influence the economy of the country.

3. Great hopes of agricultural expansion - to be encouraged, it is claimed, by schemes of rural community development - are based upon the [illegible] and irrigation project. At the time of our visit this project was under discussion between the Government and the United States National Cooperative Administration (United [illegible]), but sections had not advanced sufficiently to justify our attempting to follow in detail the discussions with regard to community welfare centres.

4. The agency of the Lebanese Government responsible for social [illegible] recently [illegible] been raised to the status of Ministry. Until [illegible] recently, there had been a change of government and the new Minister of Social [illegible] were also held [illegible] other portfolios. The Director-General of the Department [illegible] had not been continuously in office over the past years. An inquiry had been returned by the relevant Department to the Secretary-General's request [illegible] the end of 1960 for information on community welfare centres. Background information was difficult to obtain. A decree which would have governed the provision of multi-purpose community centres and material government support to be given to each or by way of exemption, had been promulgated in 1951 (Appendix I). The decree had not, however, been put into operation. The initiative in launching or developing such multi-purpose activities as we had the opportunity of seeing at Chtoura, Anjar and Aitanit had come mainly from voluntary agencies.

5. We visited the Chtoura Intermediate Centre and Anjar project on the 4th and 5th of December. The purpose of the original centre was to provide for Armenian refugees from Kurdistan [illegible] and in the earlier stages both the Near East Foundation and the Emmet Armenian Commemorative Corporation shared responsibilities for financing and management of settlements in this area. More recently, the Near East Foundation decided to concentrate on activities in Syria and Greece and brought the work at Chtoura to a close. Mr. Poladian of the Near East Foundation, who had had a long experience between the wars in community organization in Bulgaria before coming to Chtoura, then transferred to the Armenian Corporation. With his wife, he now supervises the various activities in a group of villages located in the Bekaa Valley between Beirut and Damascus. These activities include control of malaria, recreational programmes, organization of marketing, provision of seedlings and plants, poultry breeding, adult co-operatives and educational projects.

6. At the time of our visit an illustrated lecture by an American voluntary expert [illegible] was in progress. The co-operative milk marketing scheme appeared to be successful and to make a useful contribution to the milk supply of Beirut. The housing provided for the settlers and the general appearance of the village at Anjar were satisfactory. That of the Arab village of Bedjah-Anjar was [illegible] away the less so. In a Primary School known there was a primitive [illegible] and adult

are farmers. Large holdings, owned by absentee landlords and worked according to the share-tenancy system, predominate, however, in the Bekaa valley, in the Akkar plain and in the province of South Lebanon.

A diversity of crops is grown in different parts of the country. The subtropical climate of the coastal plain permits the cultivation of citrus fruits and bananas, while olives, grapes, apricots and other fruits flourish on the terraced mountain slopes. Cereals and legumes are the chief crops of the Bekaa, but cotton, tobacco and numerous types of vegetables are also produced. Large numbers of goats, as well as sheep, cattle and other livestock, are raised, primarily as food or draft animals. Sericulture is carried on in many mountain villages, but the competition of artificial silks has contributed to its decline within recent years. The government encourages the expansion of agriculture through the promotion of co-operative credit and marketing facilities. There are no experimental farms or research stations, but instruction in modern methods of farming is provided by the agricultural division of the government's vocational school in Beirut and by the American University.

The mineral resources of the region are negligible. Small deposits of lignite, located in the hills above Beirut and Tripoli, are worked intermittently. Salt is also extracted in evaporating beds along the coast north of Beirut. The development of modern industry received some impetus during the war years 1941-45, but is handicapped by the scarcity of raw materials and the limitations of the internal market. Numerous small plants exist for the processing of consumer goods, including the manufacture of textiles, cement, soaps, distilled liquors, leather goods, cigarettes, olive oil and various foodstuffs. The Iraq Petroleum Company has recently established a refinery at Tripoli, the terminus of its pipeline from the oil fields in the Kirkuk region. The chief exports are olives and olive oil, textiles, silk, fruits and petroleum products.

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Communications are excellent in the coastal districts, but some parts of the interior are inaccessible, especially during the winter months, when snow accumulates on the mountain ridges. Good roads stretch north and south along the coast and to the Bekaa, but the lateral connections are restricted by the nature of the terrain and the shortage of suitable national passes across the mountains. Trunk highways skirt the coast and extend from Beirut to Damascus, linking Lebanon and Syria. Beirut is also united with Damascus by a railway through Rayak, while a line from Rayak through Homs joins the Istanbul-Baghdad railway at Aleppo. Tripoli is linked with the latter system by a branch from Homs. A coastal railroad, extending from Tripoli to Haifa, was constructed by the British military forces during World War II, and the Lebanese portion is still in operation. Beirut, the principal modern port, handles a large volume of transit traffic for Syria, Jordan, Iraq and other parts of the Middle East. Tripoli is a port of secondary significance, except as an oil-shipping center. The ancient port of Sidon has recently been developed as the terminus of the trans-Arabian pipeline, serving as a Mediterranean port for the shipment of oil from the Saudi Arabian fields of the Arabian American Oil Company. The distances between local points are too short for the promotion of internal air services, but Beirut is an important junction for international airlines serving Europe and the Near and the Far East.

Food and Nutrition

The nutritional standards of the people differ according to the prosperity and the familiarity with food values of the individual families, but they are reasonably high in most parts of the country. Bread, and a coarse-grained cereal known as *burghul*, which are usually prepared from wheat but sometimes from barley or millet, are staple foods in both urban and rural areas. Rice is popular among all groups of the population. Liberal amounts of milk are consumed

[illegible]